



Products that Work

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY REG KITTRELLE



Techmount

PDA, iPhone, GPS, iPod, XM, MP3... It wasn't long ago that these letters sounded more like escapees from an Alpha-Bits cereal bowl than the essentials of life that we know today. What with our insatiable need to communicate with everybody and entertain ourselves continuously, these electronic sidekicks surround us like bears at a honey pot. At home and in our car they're always at the ready. On a motorcycle, gaining access to these devices can be a bit tricky; after all, viewing a GPS screen, radar detector or satellite radio from a saddlebag doesn't work for anyone.

As I've somewhat reluctantly turned my life over to these gadgets I've had to get increasingly clever at finding places to mount them on my motorcycle where they function as they should and stay where I put them. As much fun as solving these problems might be, I've retired from that hobby as I've found an almost ideal solution: Techmount.

Produced by High Gear Specialties, a Florida-based company, Techmount models have been available for mounting motorcycle electronics for more than a decade, and while I've known of them, I've never actually owned one of their mounts until now. Functionality aside (for the moment) the physical quality of this product is no less than superb. Manufactured from 6061-T6 aluminum billet, the various pieces are assembled using stainless-steel Allen-drive set screws. Several different mounting methods are available including fairing and mirror, but the handlebar mount is the most popular, and the one I use on my Road Glide for my Garmin GPS unit.

The Techmount attaches to the handlebar via a half-inch-wide clamp that mounts solidly and stylishly to whatever part of the bar you choose. Attached to that clamp is a swivel assembly allowing 360 degrees of motion which, when you find the desired position, is keyed in place and tightened down. Connected to this is a 3.5-inch shaft that pivots 180 degrees. This shaft, in turn, mounts a swiveling head assembly located by three set screws working against nylon ball bearings. Atop this is a base plate that can be positioned at any angle throughout a full circle and, if necessary, can be offset from a center mounting. Plus, the plate is drilled with multiple hole patterns that allow for the mounting of any number of different items. For example, the Garmin base readily attaches to one of these patterns. Of particular note is the precise fit of the machined pieces. The CNC operator responsible for designing the machining program is a true artist.

Attaching the Techmount to your motorcycle is as simple as determining the proper location and clamping it to your handlebar with the supplied hex-key wrench. After that, manipulating the aforementioned adjustments, you can position the base plate where you want and easily attach your device.

I have tried other mounting products. Certainly some are very good, but none, in my opinion, can compare in build quality and range of adjustment to the Techmount. If you've ever mounted a cell phone, toll transponder, garage-door opener, or any of the above-mentioned devices, you know that it can be tricky keeping the mount tight and the device secure. With the Techmount, those worries can be stashed. Price varies from \$69.95 to \$85.95, with numerous options available to aid in the mounting of your essential electronic sidekicks. When you consider the cost of the item you're mounting, and the fit and finish of the Techmount itself, this might just be the best accessory money you can spend on your motorcycle. For the complete scoop visit these metal craftsmen at www.techmounts.com. ☺



Our AR Tested editor Reg Kittrelle has created and promoted motorcycle events and publications for 30 years, including *Thunder Press*, *Battle-Trax*, *Battle2win* and various fundraisers. He began riding in 1965 and owns several Harleys and Buells.